

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-09

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 CU-02

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R 131555Z MAY 75

FM AMEMBASSY ALGIERS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2422

INFO AMEMBASSY PARIS

C O N F I D E N T I A L ALGIERS 1149

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT, AG

SUBJ: STUDENT OUTBREAK

REF: ALGIERS 1139

1. HAVE MORE DETAILS ON EVENTS AT UNIVERSITY FROM UNIVERSITY SOURCE WHO CONSIDERED RELIABLE OBSERVER. HE UNABLE CONFIRM REPORTS OF DEATHS, BUT DOES STATE THERE WAS SERIOUS VIOLENCE AT LAW AND POLITICAL SCIENCE FACULTY (BEN AKNOUN) MORNING MAY 9. STUDENTS FROM ARABIC-LANGUAGE WING OF LAW FACULTY PROTESTED THEIR LACK OF REPRESENTATION IN ELECTIONS FOR MAY 19 YOUTH CONGRESS BY ATTACKING STUDENTS OF FRENCH-LANGUAGE WING WHO WERE MANNING POLS AT UNIVERSITY. USING CHAINS AND BROKEN BOTTLES THEY TERRORIZED UNIVERSITY FOR SEVERAL HOURS AND WREAKED EXTENSIVE DAMAGE UNTIL FINALLY BROUGHT UNDER CONTROL BY OTHER STUDENTS. FOUR PERSONS TAKEN TO HOSPITAL. UNIVERSITY AUTHORITIES APPARENTLY DID NOT CALL IN POLICE OR MILITARY AND THESE UNITS DID NOT INTERFERE ON THEIR OWN. UNIVERSITY CLOSED DOWN OVER WEEKEND BUT DID REOPEN MONDAY MORNING. SITUATION NOW QUIET BUT TENSE.

2. GENESIS OF ARABAPHONE PROTEST IS INTERESTING. ACCORDING SOURCE, ONE OF REQUIREMENTS FOR CANDIDATURE IS ACTIVITY IN VOLUNTEER PROGRAM BY WHICH STUDENTS SPEND WEEKENDS AND VACATIONS EXPLAINING AGRARIAN REFORM TO PEASANTS AND HELPING WITH FARM WORK. STUDENTS IN ARABIC-LANGUAGE FACULTY INCLUDE
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SONS OF MORE CONSERVATIVE RURAL ELEMENTS, QADIS, LANDOWNERS,

ETC., WHO TEND TO OPPOSE LAND REFORM AND WHO HAVE NOT BEEN
ACTIVE IN VOLUNTEER ACTIVITIES. THEY THEREFORE UNREPRESENTED
AMONG CANDIDATES. VOLUNTEERS, ON OTHER HAND, TEND TO COME
FROM FRENCH-LANGUAGE FACULTY, WHICH LOOKS DOWN NOSE AT THOSE
IN ARABIC PROGRAM IN ANY EVENT. TWO LANGUAGE GROUPS GENERALLY
HAVE LITTLE COMMUNICATION WITH EACH OTHER IN ANY CASE, EXCEPT
TO TRADE INSULTS, AND TENSION ENDEMIC.
PARKER

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: STUDENT DEMONSTRATIONS, UNIVERSITIES
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 13 MAY 1975
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: GolinoFR
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975ALGIER01149
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D750168-0695
From: ALGIERS
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t19750555/aaaabxnv.tel
Line Count: 69
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION NEA
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 75 ALGIERS 1139
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: GolinoFR
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 19 MAY 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <19 MAY 2003 by CunninFX>; APPROVED <20 MAY 2003 by GolinoFR>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
05 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: STUDENT OUTBREAK
TAGS: PINT, AG
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 05 JUL 2006